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HARDY, LAURENCE M. 1979. *Ficimia ramirezi.*

Ficimia ramirezi Smith and Langebartel
Ramirez's hook-nosed snake

Ficimia ramirezi Smith and Langebartel, 1949:411, fig. 1, right. Type-locality, "1 league [approx. 3.8–7.4 km] north of Niltepec, Oaxaca [Mexico]." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Nat. Hist. 3767, adult male, collected by Juan Ramirez, 6 March 1949 (examined by author).

• CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

• DEFINITION. In the unique specimen, a male, the internasals are present, and the nasal is divided above and below the naris, separated from the preocular, and fused to the first supralabial. There is no loreal, the preoculars are single, there are two postoculars, 1 + 2 temporals, 7 supralabials, and 7 infralabials. There are 8 dorsal scales contacting the parietals. The rostral contacts the frontal and is turned up in front and sharp edged. Supralabials 3–4 contact the orbit, supralabials 2–3 contact the preocular, and infralabials 1–3 contact the anterior chin shields. The mental is separated from the anterior chin shields by the mutual medial contact of the first infralabials. There are 20 gulars (Hardy, 1972), 135 ventrals, and 37 subcaudals; the anal plate is divided. The smooth dorsal scales have single apical pits and are in 19-20-17-17-17 rows; there are no anal ridges. The dorsocaudal rows reduce to six at subcaudal 13 and to four at subcaudal 22.

Body coloration slate gray to tan above with 21 pale chocolate brown blotches with narrow incomplete black borders; small poorly defined pale spots alternate with some of the dorsal blotches; a few scattered lateral dark streaks; venter and head immaculate. Dorsal interspaces large (3–4 times length of dorsal blotches). Dorsal caudal blotches number 10.

Hemipenis 10 caudals in length and single with simple sulcus spermaticus; two enlarged basal spines; basal one-third spinose with larger spines basally and smaller spines distally that merge with calyces on distal two-thirds of organ. Longitudinal plicae through entire length.

• DIAGNOSIS. This species differs from *F. olivacea* by having dorsal body blotches and internasals (both absent in *F. olivacea*). *Ficimia ramirezi* differs from all other species of *Ficimia* by having longer (five or more scale lengths) interspaces between the dorsal midbody blotches (less than five in other species).

• DESCRIPTIONS. The only description other than the original description is in Hardy (1975a). Smith and Langebartel (1949) described the hemipenis of the holotype.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. The holotype was illustrated by Smith and Langebartel (1949) and by Hardy (1975a).

• DISTRIBUTION. Known only from the Pacific drainage of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, 1 league [about 3.8–7.4 km] N Niltepec, Oaxaca, México.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. In the original description Smith and Langebartel (1949) expressed some doubt that *F. ramirezi* is really distinct from *F. publia*. Neill (1963) suggested that *F. publia* is dichromatic in dorsal body blotch size and that the holotype of *F. ramirezi* is a variant of *F. publia* that has reduced dorsal body blotches. Hardy (1975a) briefly discussed the differences between *F. ramirezi* and the three other species of *Ficimia* (*F. publia*, *F. olivacea*, and *F. variegata*) that occupy the same general region in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Speculation on the evolution and phylogenetic relationships of *F. ramirezi* is in Hardy (1975b).

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet *ramirezi* is a patronym for Sr. Juan Ramirez, who collected the holotype.

COMMENT

Until more specimens are found there will continue to be some doubt about the validity of this species. However, the presence of internasals (if consistent) distinguishes *F. ramirezi* from *F. variegata*, *F. streckeri*, and *F. olivacea*, and the distinctive color pattern (number and size of body blotches, size of interspaces, head coloration) is outside of the ranges of variation known for other species of *Ficimia*. It seems reasonable to continue to recognize this species because of its sympatric occurrence with other species of *Ficimia* and because of its distinctive characteristics.

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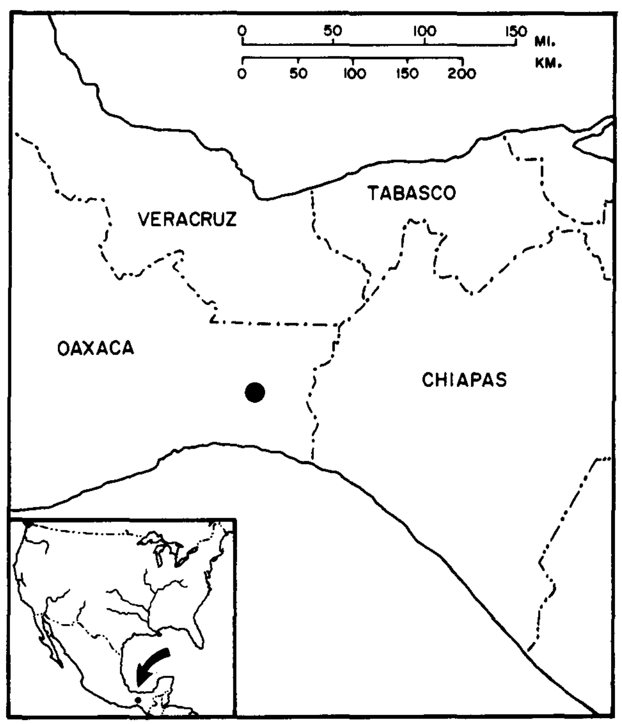
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MAP. The solid symbol marks the type locality, the only known locality for this species.